THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

No. 16 of vol. III.] BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, December 19, 1812. [whole no. 68.

Hæc olim meminisse juvabit.—Virgil.

Printed and published by H. Niles, South-st. next door to the Merchants' Coffee House, at $5 *per annum.*

Naval Establishment.

Report of the committee appointed on that part of the President's Message which relates to the Naval Establishment, recommending an increase of the Navy of the United States.

The committee appointed on that part of the President's Message which relates to the Naval Establishment—report in part:

That in performance of the duty assigned them, the committee could not fail to advert to the report made at the last session of congress on this subject. Having adverted to it, they could not fail, from the justness of its reasoning to reply on it, and pray that it may be taken as a part of their report.—The little experience as yet afforded us in naval warfare corroborates the principles there contended for, and in this view, they think themselves supported by that passage in the president's message which says: "Our trade, with little exception, has reached our ports; having been much favored in it by the course pursued by a squadron of our frigates under the command of commodore Rodgers."

They therefore concurred in the opinion that it is proper to increase the naval establishment. For information as to the mode of increase, they applied to the navy department, and obtained the documents which they submit to the house. The comparative effect of vessels of different rates must be considered as demonstrated by these documents. Yet were your committee apprised, that in the complicated system of naval warfare no one principle could be relied on as applicable to all times and all occasions, but that a patient comparison of many principles was necessary to a just conclusion. They were apprised that facility of movement should be combined with efficiency of force. Nor were they regardless of the benefit of occasional division. Inasmuch, however, as great gain will sometimes follow from the power to operate on many points at once, yet at others it may be all important to give unity to your force. To obtain the three things desired, it is essential your naval establishment comprise ships of different rates.

It is evident too from the documents, that you can compromise in men and money, by providing some of the larger ships. This conclusion, so well fortified by reason, is found in unison with the practice of all nations who have had the fiscal and other means of procuring a navy. Indeed it would seem almost the spontaneous effect of instinct without the aid of reason, to oppose like with like. To yield the advantage of the sabre, the bayonet, or fire arms, to your enemy, would by all men be deemed miserable policy. Can reason change with the element? Let us then have for defence 76, 38 and 16 gun ships: because we are to oppose an enemy possessing all these means of attack, and because they combine all advantages in naval warfare. It is not the intention of your committee to put aside the gun-boats; but they believe that considering the opportunity afforded them for action, that an ample portion of that species of force has been provided. Your committee cannot conclude their report without bringing to the view of the house the fact, that the naval superiority of Great Britain, which secures her integrity and supports her dignity, is maintained at a cost much below the military establishments of the continent. And it is with something like exultation, as republicans, that they present a species of national force that, whilst it will best subserve the national defence, can operate least on the national liberty. It is a bright attribute in the history of the tar, that he has never destroyed the rights of the nation. In its defence only is he to be found.

Thus aided by economy and fortified by republican principle, your committee think they ought strongly to recommend that the fostering care of the nation be extended to the naval establishment. It is far, very far from your committee, to extend their views of a navy to the mad and wicked prospect of foreign conquest, or a silly contest to be mistress of the ocean. Their view is limitted to their own defence, and to enforce respect to their just rights. To the objection that it is the nature of man to run into extremes, they answer, that it is the end, not the beginning, we should guard against. It is surely yielding much of the argument to surrender all of the subject that is good, and require submission to evil that good may come thereof. Rather separate the wheat from the chaff, show the good and the bad. Let it be impressed on every citizen, that to use force to protect and maintain the rights and liberties of his country was his first duty; whilst it is the greatest of crimes to attack with force the rights of others.

It can require no subtlety to enforce the distinction between defence and offence. Neither can it require argument to prove, that the first ought not to be abandoned as being more than life's worth; though the other may be deprecated as the consummation of wickedness. Limitted to the view, of defence and protection, the committee directed their chairman to ask leave of the house to report a bill to increase the navy of the United States.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

Navy Department, *13th Nov.* 1812.

Sir—I have the honor of transmitting herewith, for the information of the committee of the house of representatives, of which you are the chairman, certain papers marked A. B. C. and D.

From the paper A. it appears that a 76 gun ship mounting 86 guns, discharges in one round 3176 lbs. of cannon ball; that a 44 gun frigate mounting 54 guns, discharges in one round 1488 lbs. of cannon ball; that a 76 discharges at one broadside 1588 lbs. and that a 44 gun frigate, discharges at one broadside 744 lbs. of ball. The question then arises, what is the intrinsic relative force of a 76 and a 44!

Suppose two 44 gun frigates should be brought into combat with a 76, one on the larboard, the other on the starboard quarter; each frigate presenting a broadside of 744 lbs. of ball, will have to contend against a battery of 1588 lbs. As 744 lbs. is to 1588 lbs. so would be the relative metal of a 76 and two large 44 gun frigates; difference against the frigates 844 lbs. weight of metal. It is obvious then, that two 44 gun frigates could not contend with a 76, with the least probability of success.

Suppose a third frigate, attacking alternately on

the starboard and larboard quarter, should join in the combat, while two of the frigates should be operating on one quarter, with a difference in weight of metal against them of 100 lbs. the third frigate would be contending on the other, with a difference against her of 844 lbs.

It might be observed that the frigates would all attack on one quarter and then with 2232 lbs. of metal, they would have to contend with only 1588 lbs. having a difference in their favor of 644 lbs. In reply it may be observed, that three frigates could not take such a position, on any one quarter, as would enable them to bring all their broadsides to bear at once upon an object moving through the water with as much celerity as themselves—moreover a frigate would always avoid the broadside of a 76—for one well directed broadside from a 76 at close shot, would inevitably blow her out of the water. Witness the Randolph with the Yarmouth. Frigates would attack in various directions, change their positions frequently, and avoid the tremendous battery of a 76 as much as possible.

Besides, a 76 is built of heavier timber, is intrinsically much stronger than a frigate, in all her works, and can sustain battering much longer and with less injury. A shot which would sink a frigate, might be received by a 76, with but little injury—it might pass between wind and water through a frigate, when it would stick in the frame of a 76.

All things considered, it must be admitted that one 76 gun ship mounting 86, is *equal* in combat to three frigates mounting 162 guns. Admitting this equality, other questions present themselves for consideration—and

1st. What is the relative expense of building and equipping these vessels?

2d. What is the relative numbers of their crews?

3d. What is the relative annual expense in actual service?

To ascertain the expence of building and equipping a frigate, we will take the actual cost of one of our largest, viz. the President, which was $220,910; a frigate would then cost $220,910

The cost of a 76 cannot be so easily ascertained;—however, from the papers B. and C. we may, I think, estimate the expense of building and equipping a 76 at not exceeding 333,000

The construction then of a force in frigates, equal in combat to a 76 gun ship, would cost 662,730

Making in this view a difference in favor of the 76 of 329,730

As then $333,000 is to $662,730 so would be the relative expense of building and equipping a 76, and a force in frigates equal to a 76, making a difference in favor of the 76 of 329,730

By the paper A. it appears that a 76 requires to man her 650 men, and that a 44 requires 420. To man three 44 gun frigates, or a force in frigates equal to a 76, would then require 1260 men; and in this respect we find a difference in favor of the 76 of 610 men; that is, 650 men on board of a 76 can direct as much force as 1260 can on board of three frigates.

As to the relative expence, we have heretofore estimated the annual cost of a frigate of 44 guns, at $110,000; and from the best information we can obtain upon the subject, the annual expence of a 76 will not exceed $202,110

The annual expence then of three frigates, or a force in frigates equal to a 76, would be $330,000; while a 76 would not cost exceeding 202,110; making, in this respect, a difference in favor of the 76 of $127,890 annually.

In examining the relative strength of frigates and ships of war and gun-boats, we shall find similar results in favor of the larger class of vessels.

Hence if the only object in view was to employ the greatest intrinsic naval force, at the least expence, I should think there would be no difficulty in deciding that we ought to have none but ships of the greatest magnitude. But in providing a naval armament there are other considerations of the highest importance. We should inquire what kind of force will, most probably, be brought against us; with what description of force can we meet the enemy, with the greatest probability of success, and afford the most effectual protection to our commerce; and upon these highly interesting points, I will take the liberty of submitting a very valuable communication (D.) received from Charles Stewart, esq. a captain in the navy of the United States—an officer of great observation, distinguished talents, and very extensive professional experience—observing, that I believe all the most enlightened officers in our service concur in the opinions he has expressed.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant, PAUL HAMILTON.

The hon. Burwell Basset,
Chairman of the Naval Committee,
of the House of Representatives.

(A.) STATEMENT shewing the number and description of guns mounted on vessels of different classes, the weight of ball in a round in each, the weight of a broadside, the number of men required for each, the annual expence in actual service of each, the annual expence computed by the gun, by each man, by the weight of metal, and the relative power of each man in each description of vessels, computed in weight of metal.

Rate of ships.	Number of 68 pound carronades.	Number of 42 pound long cannon on the lower gun deck.	Number of 24 pound long cannon on the upper deck.	Number of 42 pound carronades on the quarter deck.	Number of 32 pound carronades on the main deck or quarter deck.	Number of 42 pound carronades on the forecastle.	Number of 32 pound carronades on the forecastle.	Number of 9 pound long cannon.	Whole number of carriage guns.	Number of guns in a broadside.	Weight of ball in a round.	Weight of ball in a broadside.	Number of men, ...	Whole annual expence in actual service.	Annual expence per gun.	Annual expence per man.	Annual expence per each pound of metal.	Power of each man computed in weight of metal.
guns.														D.	D.	D. cts.	D. cts.	lbs. oz.
ship of 76	4	30	28	16		8			86	43	3176	1588	650	202,110	2,350	310 9	63 63	4 14
44			30		16		8		54	27	1488	744	420	110,000	2,037	261 90	73 92	3 8
16					18			2	20	10	594	297	130	50,202	2,520	463	84 51	4 8
Gun-boat.			1						1		24		36	12,500	12,500	347	520 83	10 1-2

(B.)

Estimate of the expense of building and equipping a seventy four gun ship of sixteen hundrd and twenty tons, prepared some years since by Joshua Humphreys, esquire, of Philadelphia, a shipright of great respectability and professional talents.

Live oak timber,	$ 40,000
White oak and pine do.	30,000
Labor,	85,100
Cables, rigging, &c.	32,400
Smith's work,	30,400
Anchors, marling,	8,700
Sailmaker's bills, two suits, including canvas,	16,200
Joiner's bill, including stuff,	7,800
Carver's bill,	1,620
Tanner's ditto,	700
Rigger's ditto,	2,240
Painter's ditto,	3,240
Cooper's ditto,	4,860
Blockmaker's ditto,	3,240
Boatbuilder's ditto,	1,620
Plumber's ditto,	2,430
Ship chandlery,	9,720
Turner's bill,	1,215
Copper bolts,	10,960
Sheathing copper, nails, &c.	17,440
Woolens for sheathing,	1,215
	311,100
Contingencies,	31,600
	*$ 342,700

(C.)

Estimate of the expense of building and equipping a 76 gun ship, from the actual expence of building and equipping the frigate President.

The President, of 1,444 tons, cost $220,910, say, per ton $153—a 76 would ton 1,620—1,620 tons, at $153	$247,860
Add for additional guns and gun carriages	13,599
Additional cubic feet of timber in the frame about 4,000 feet, at $1 25	5,000
For additional weight of rigging, anchors, and other materials, add 10 per cent.; on the cost of the tonnage, $247,860, at 10 per cent.	24,785
	$296,245
[Say	$300,000

*Notes by an experienced gentleman.

"Labor,"—This item was calculated at a time when ship carpenter's wages were two dollars and fifty cents per day; they can now be obtained at two dollars.

"Cables and rigging."—When the above estimate was made the price was sixteen dollars; they can now be obtained at fifteen dollars.

"Carver's bill."—Expensive carving on the head and stern is abolished—one thousand dollars may be deducted from this item.

"Rigger's bill."—We employ seamen at twelve dollars per month: this item may be considerably reduced.

"Painter's bill."—The present practice of painting our ships of war differs so much from that first adopted, both in point of labor and colors, that one third of this item may be safely deducted.

"Woolen for sheathing."—Now exploded: experience having established the fact, that it occasions an absorption and retention of salt water, which corrodes the copper inside, &c. nor could the copper be laid on so smooth as without it.

"Contingencies."—At the time the above estimate was made we had no yards, of course wharfage or rent of yard was then included, and we do not now, as then, give such quantities of rum to laborers; this item may be reduced one half.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

British Order in Council.

His royal highness the Prince Regent in Council.

WHEREAS, in consequence of information having been received of a declaration of war by the United States of America against his majesty, and of the issue of letters of marque and reprisal by the said government against his majesty and his subjects, an order in council, bearing date the 31st of July, was issued, directing that American ships and goods should be brought in and detained till further orders; and whereas his royal highness the prince regent acting in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, forbore at that time to direct letters of marque and reprisal to be issued against the ships, goods and citizens of the said United States of America, under the expectation that the said government would, upon the notification of the order in council of the 22d of June last, forthwith recal and annul the said declaration of war against his majesty, and also annul the said letters of marque and reprisal.

And whereas the said government of the United States of America, upon due notification to them of the said orders in council of the 23d of June last, did not think fit to recal the said declaration of war and letters of marque and reprisal, but have proceeded to condemn and persisted in condemning the ships and property of his majesty's subjects, as prize of war, and have refused to ratify a suspension of arms agreed upon between lieutenant-general sir George Prevost, his majesty's governor-general of Canada, and gen. Dearborn, commanding the American forces in the Northern provinces of the United States, and have directed hostilities to be recommenced in that quarter.

His royal highness the prince regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his majesty and with the advice of his majesty's privy council, is hereby pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that general reprisals be granted against the ships, goods and citizens of the United States of America, and others inhabiting within the territories thereof (save and except any vessels to which his majesty's licence has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from the embargo, and have not terminated the original voyage on which they were detained and released, &c.)

His royal highness the prince regent is nevertheless pleased hereby to declare in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, that nothing in this order contained shall be understood to recal or affect the declaration which his majesty's naval commander on the American station has been authorised to make to the government of the United States of America—namely, that his royal highness, animated by a sincere desire to arrest the calamities of war, has authorised the said commander to sign a convention, recalling and annulling from a day to be named, all hostile orders issued by the respective governments with a view of restoring without delay the relations of amity and commerce between his majesty and the United States of America.

From the court at Carlton-house, the 13th of October, 1812.

Signed, *Castlereagh, Liverpool, &c.*

Documents accompanying the annual Treasury Report.

An estimate of the principal redeemed of the debt of the U. States, from the 1st Oct. 1811, to the 30th Sept. 1812, and also from the 1st April, 1801, to the 30th. Sept 1812.

		Redemption from 1st October, 1811, to the 30th Sept. 1812.	Redemption fr. 1st April, 1801, to 30th Sept. 1811, per the secretary's report of the 25th Nov. 1811.	Total principal redeemed, from the 1st April, 1801, to 30th September, 1812.
The amount of warrants issued on the treasurer of the U. States, on account of the interest of the domestic debt, and of the reimbursement of the old 6 per cent. and deferred stocks, from the 1st Oct. 1811, to the 30th Sept. 1812, exclusive of a repayment of $24,927 30, and of the reimbursement of part of the converted stock, and the purchase of Louisiana 6 per cent. as stated below, was	$3,210,418 28			
Deduct interest, which accrued during the same period, calculated quarter-yearly	1,686,821, 89			
Reimbursement of the old 6 per cent. and deferred stocks		1,523,596 39	13,312,846 57	14,836,442 96
Do. of the navy 6 per cent. stock			711,700	711,700
Do. of the five and a half per cent. stock			1,847,500	1,847,500
Do. of the four and a half per cent. stock			176,000	176,000
Do. and purchase of eight per cent. stock			6,359,600	6,359,600
Do. do. of exchanged 6 per cent. stock			6,293,351 12	6,293,351 12
Do. of converted 6 per cent. stock		1,294,452 29		1,294,452 29
Purchase of Louisiana 6 p. cent. stock (cost $116,761 17)		118,500		118,500
Payments for lands, in certificates of the debt of the U. S.			268,240 70	268,240 70
Do. to foreign officers, and for certain parts of the domestic debt		1,917 31	90,092 58	92,009 89
Do. on account of domestic loans			3,440,000	3,440,000
Reimbursement of the foreign debt			10,075,004	10,075,004
		(a)2,938,465 99	42,574,334 97	(b)45,512,800 96

(a) There was received on loan from 1st October, 1811, to 30th September, 1812 . . $5,847,212 50
From which deducting the principal redeemed 2,938,465 99

Leaves for the actual increase of debt during that period 2,978,745 51

(b) To this sum of 45,512,800 96
must be added
Difference between the nominal amount of 3 per cent. stock extinguished, and that of converted stock, issued under the act of 11th February, 1807 $1,001,458 45
Difference between the nominal amount of 6 per cent. and deferred stocks, are here stated, and the amount actually reimbursed, as per accounts settled at the treasury, arising from unclaimed dividends and arrears of interest 324,274 91
1,325,733 36
From which deduct reimbursement on stock, paid in for land, prior to the 30th September, 1805. . . . . 4,229 90
1,321,503 46

True amount reimbursed, from 1st April, 1801, to 30th September, 1812 $46,834,304 42

STATEMENT of the amount of monies obtained on loans by the U. States, during the year 1812, so far as ascertained at the Treasury on the first of December, 1812.

PLACES.	For stock bearing an interest of 6 p. cent.	By special contract at 6 p. cent. interest.	For treasury notes.	Total.
Portsmouth, New-Hampshire	17,600			17,600
Portland, Maine		50,000		50,000
Boston and Salem, Massachusetts	744,100	1,000,000	400,000	2,144,100
Providence, Rhode-Island	94,200			94,200
Hartford, Connecticut	6,200			6,200
New-York	1,733,000		1,600,000	3,333,000
Philadelphia	2,502,300	400,000	1,295,000	4,197,300
Baltimore	1,117,700	200,000	90,000	1,407,700
Washington	498,600	100,000	150,000	748,600
Richmond, Virginia	326,100	250,000		576,100
Charleston, S. Carolina	375,400	150,000		525,400
	$7,415,200	2,150,000	3,535,000	13,100,200
Of the above sum there was loaned by individuals				$3,970,200
by banks				9,150,000
				$13,100,20

Statement of receipts and payments at the Treasury of the U. S. from 1st Oct. 1811, to 30th Sept. 1812.

Cash in the treasury, subject to warrant, October, 1811		3,947,813 36
Received for the proceeds of the Customs	9,907,990 80	
Arrears of internal revenues and direct tax	7,066 07	
Sales of public lands	822,599 64	
Cents and half cents coined at the mint	7,975 95	
Fees on patents	6,99 00	
Public arms sold to states	20,434 50	
Public property sold	1,119 51	
Postage of letters	85,000 00	
Salt works in the Illinois territory	7,910 25	
Fines, penalties and forfeitures	80 95	
Consular receipts under the act of Apr. 14, 1792	1,161 14	
Treasurer's drafts lost or destroyed	52 50	
Repayments	57,565 59	
	10,934,946 90	
Loan	5,847,212 50	
		16,782,159 40
		$20,729,977 76

Payment on the following accounts, viz.

CIVIL EXPENCES, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, VIZ.

Civil list proper		816,655 13
Light house establishment		131,420 4
Grants and miscellaneous claims		22,073 58
Marine hospital establishment		56,062 6
Mint establishment		15,206 22
Public buildings in Washington		14,000
Furniture for the President's house		300
Military pensions		94,358 44
Unclaimed merchandise		280 2
Purchase of books for congress		1,000
Third census		68,799 11
Consular receipts, under act of April 14, 1792		1,161 14
Prize money for the navy pension fund		478
Relief of the citizens of Venezuela		47,840 73
Survey of the coast of the United States		13,308 68
Better accommodation of the General Post-Office, &c.		11,853 91
Prisoners of war		5,000
Trading houses with the Indians		16,870
Road from Cumberland to the Ohio	38,020 75	
Roads within the state of Ohio	20,000	
Do. under treaty of Brownstown	445 50	
		58,466 25
Surveys of public lands	17,264 19	
Ascertaining land titles in Louisiana	9,101 48	
		26,365 67
Intercourse with foreign nations, Barbary treaties, seamen	364,039 21	
Contingent expences of intercourse with foreign nations	42,538 30	
American claims assumed by the Louisiana convention	4,992 86	
		411,570 37

Military expences, viz.

Military department, fortifications, ordnance, militia, volunteers	7,770,300	
Indian department	230,975	
		8,001,275
Total brought up		9,824,344 35

Naval expences, viz.

Naval department, marine corps, navy yards		3,167,501 54

Public debt, viz.

Interest and charges	2,498,013 19	
Reimbursement of principal	2,938,465 99	
		5,436,479 18
Balance in the treasury, subject to warrant, September 30, 1812		2,361,652 69
		$20,729,977 76

Pennsylvania Legislature.

MR. GEMMIL'S *Resolutions, on the subject of the War, &c. read in the Senate of Pennsylvania, December 5th.*

Viewing the present state of our foreign relations, we with astonishment and regret, behold the emperor of the French withholding from our country, those indemnifications which ought to have been rendered with liberality and promptness.

After the *injustice* of Great Britain, had, by long continued practice, acquired the name of *right*; after the forbearance and negociating practice of the American government had assumed the appearance and incurred the name of *cowardice*:—War is reluctantly, unavoidably but decisively declared.

With condecension unexampled—with a love of peace which cannot be exceeded, except by that Divine fountain from which it proceeds, the president of the United States, in the same dispatch announces to the British government the existence of war, and the equitable, easy, and honorable means by which its progress might be arrested, and its calamities permanently prevented.

But this extraordinary proof of a humane and pacific disposition is treated with contempt. Familiarized to the slaughter of man around our globe, his Britannic majesty prefers the effusion of human blood, before the suspension of the grossly immoral practice of impressment, even during the short space of an armistice agreed on for the purpose of negociating a just and honorable peace; nay, before a simultaneous relinquishment of that practice, and an exclusion by the American government, of British seamen from our navy.

But what atrocities are too enormous to be found in that government, whose characteristic features are cruelty and perfidy; which stimulates the savage to drench his tomahawk and scalping knife, in the blood of our frontier men, women and infants; which, making the most solemn professions of friendship and peace, strives, by the malignant breath of its secret emissaries to kindle in our nation dissatisfaction, discord, rebellion, and civil war, with all its sanguinary and horrible consequences! Thus is extinguished, in the American government, and in every American bosom, the last hope of finding in the conduct of G. Britain towards the United States, a single voluntary act of justice or humanity.

Impressed with these considerations, and with others of a collateral and subordinate nature: *We the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met,* do adopt the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, that the declaration of war against the United kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, issued by the general government, on the 18th of June last, is the result of solemn deliberation, sound wisdom and imperious necessity.

2d. Resolved, That the sword being drawn, should never be sheathed till our wrongs are redressed, our commerce unfettered, and our citizens freed from the danger of British impressment, of imprisonment in the floating dungeons of the British navy, painful necessity of fighting the battles of a detested enemy, against their fathers, their brethren, their native country, and their friends.

3d. Resolved, that to exert all the energies of his body, of his mind, and of his property, to bring the existing war to a speedy, just and honorable issue, and to teach our insolent foe, that the Americans are as free from timidity and weakness in battle, as from *covert* and *disguise* in negociation, is a duty which every citizen of the Union owes to himself, to his country, and to his God.

4th. Resolved, that true liberty of speech and of the press, should remain unimpaired—the laws on treason should be immediately and carefully revised, and treasonable words and acts, be more minutely and intelligibly defined.

5th. Resolved, That with painful regret we contemplate the refusal, by the executive authorities of two states in the union to furnish, on the president's demand, their quota of militia for the defence of the sea coast; and that whatever measures the wisdom of the national legislature may adopt on this lamentable subject, shall meet our concurrence and receive our support.

6th. Resolved, That the promptness, the zeal, and the wisdom, with which the governor of this commonwealth has executed the orders of the president, since the commencement of hostilities, entitle him to the gratitude of this general assembly, of Pennsylvania, and of the nation.

7th. Resolved, That to attain and defend our rights against England and France, or against any aggressing power upon earth, we we will rally and fight, and conquer or die, under the banner of that Omnipotent God, who, enlightening the councils and invigorating the armies of the revolutionary war, conducted our arms to victory, to independence, to happiness, to glory.

8th. Resolved, That the governor of this commonwealth be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the president of the United States, with a request that he communicate them to congress.

Legislature of Virginia.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

COUNCIL-CHAMBER, *Nov.* 30, 1812.

To the Senate and House of Delegates,

It would have been to me, fellow-citizens, a source of great pleasure, could I have communicated to you, that since your last session the two great contending powers of Europe, sensible of their injustice towards us, had at last abandoned their offensive measures, and made honorable reparation for the insults and injuries they had so long, and so wantonly inflicted upon the United States.

It is painful, on the contrary, to be obliged to state, that the conduct of these powers has been essentially otherwise.

Whilst France was wantonly committing the most lawless and unprincipled outrages, she was nevertheless making strong professions of friendship. This induced a hope on the part of the general government that by remonstrance, and negociation, it might be possible to avoid a resort to the last extremity against that power. Great Britain, on the other hand, as little restrained by considerations of justice, and availing herself of her naval superiority, continued not only her acts of violence by which our commerce was harrassed on every ocean, but added injuries peculiar to herself, and boldly proclaimed her unalterable determination to persevere in her iniquitous course.

Although it would be as painful as humiliating to recapitulate, in detail, the wrongs which this power for a series of years has done us, yet a rapid review of the most important incidents, during that time, may not be without its use, as it will present a volume of evidence, demonstrating to the world the ardor with which America has cherished peace, her patience and long sufferingunder injustice and oppression, and the imperious necessity which finally compelled her to assume a hostile attitude.

At the commencement of the war so afflicting to humanity and which has so long desolated Europe, America, just recovered from the convulsive throes of her own revolution, and at peace with the world, was reposing under the benign influence of a government founded upon the rights, and having for its object the happiness of man, administered by the genius of a Washington, whose illustrious virtues, by the unanimous consent of the nation, had obtained for him the most honorable of all titles, that of father of his country. Under such auspicious circumstances, she was marching with rapid strides to the fulfilment of her high destinies.—This prosperous career could be arrested only by the interruption of her peace. Its preservation, therefore, as consonant to her inclinations as to her interest, became the object of unceasing solicitude. And that nothing might be attributed to her, which should justify the belligerent powers, in disturbing the peaceful attitude she had determined to preserve, she invariably maintained towards each an impartial neutrality; she discharged with the most scrupulous fidelity every obligation imposed by justice, performed with cheerfulness every act of kindness, dictated by friendship, and took no farther interest in the troubled scenes of Europe, than to weep over the folly and wickedness which kept alive a war, every where marked with unusual carnage and desolation.

With such dispositions and such conduct, she might well have hoped that her rights would have been respected and her peace undisturbed. How far this just expectation has been realized, let the long and bloody roll of acts of injustice and violence, perpetrated by Great Britain, answer.

She had scarcely become a party to the war, when, with the avowed and wicked purpose of starving thirty millions of people, she directed her cruizers, in contempt of the laws of nations, to seize, and bring into her ports every American vessel, bound to France with provisions, and not content with this offensive measure herself, she solicited her allies to co-operate with her, and actually bound them by treaties to follow her example. She next interdicted our *direct* trade between the colonies of her enemy and the mother country—*then* she would not permit that trade by the *circuitous* route—an aggression which (independent of its intrinsic enormity) was characterised by *perfidy*, inasmuch as, by the solemn decisions of her own courts, that trade had been pronounced legitimate. Our citizens, confiding in this pledge, covered the ocean with their vessels:—When, to the indignant amazement of Americans, by an *ex post facto* regulation, British cruisers were let loose upon their property, to the ruin of the owners. Her new and unwarrantable system of blockade, interdicted our intercourse with whole countries:—She caused her vessels of war to hover around our coasts—infest our harbors, insult our sovereignty, and murder our citizens. She caused thousands of our native born seamen to be impressed on the high seas, and torn from their homes, their families and their country:—finally, by her orders in council, she insolently assumed the power of regulating our commerce, thereby reducing us, if submission, on our part, had followed, to a state of colonial vassalage.

America, amidst these outrages, continued to give new proofs of her pacific disposition, and actually retired from the ocean; thereby abandoning for a time, one of the essential prerogatives of sovereign power; a measure accompanied with a sacrifice, for extent and duration, without a parallel.

It will ever be remembered, for it forms an important epoch in our transactions with Great Britain, with what eagerness, upon the first appearance of an amicable disposion on the part of that power, the American government seized the opportunity to renew by an arrangement with her representative here, our friendly relations:—With what forbearance it cast the mantle of oblivion over the wrongs we had suffered—and although millions of our property, lawlessly plundered by Great Britain, were unrestored—although thousands of our seamen were in captivity, and her hands were reeking with the unatoned-for blood of our citizens, yet we generously forgave all, and extended to her the hand of friendship.

Had Great Britain cherished a disposition for peace, there was nothing to which *she* could object in this arrangement. Yet she thought proper to disavow it, to recall the agent who made it, upon the pretended ground of having exceeded his instructions, and to appoint a successor whose character was every way suited to the unfriendly designs she harbored against us; remonstrance and an interdiction of commercial intercourse were the only measures to which America recurred, upon an occasion which would have justified a resort to extremities.

France at length announced her determination to rescind her iniquitous decrees. The American government again pressed Great Britain, in compliance with her uniform promises, to follow the example set by her rival, and hopes were entertained that she would yield to her interest, what had been refused to justice.—Whilst the American government was indulging this expectation, and cherishing the prospect that peace might yet be preserved; the prince regent by his proclamation of the 21st of April, announced the fixed purpose of his government to persevere in the offensive course it had so long pursued, unless France should rescind entirely (not only as it regarded America, but *all nations*) her illegal decrees—a subject in which *we* had no essential concern. About this time, satisfactory evidence was obtained of a project, planned by Great Britain, of endeavoring to affect, by a secret agent, the dismemberment of these states, through all the horrors of a civil war: a scheme, to the intrinsic darkness of which were added deeper shades of guilt, from the circumstances of its being carried on at the very moment, when through her accredited agent here, she was indulging in the most amicable professions. The measure of her outrages being thus filled, and that of our patience exhausted, the unpleasant alternatives, of an appeal to arms, or a base surrender of our rights, were presented to the constituted authorities of the United States. With a courage becoming the representatives of a free people, they weighed the preservation of our rights, our honor, and our character, against the privations and hazards of war

and accepted it as an equivalent. Accordingly, on the 18th of June, 1812, war was formally declared against Great Britain and her dependencies. The determination produced a crisis in our affairs of the utmost importance. For, to the weighty considerations inseparably incident to a state of war with so powerful a nation, there was to be added one of peculiar and high interest, which by its irresistible tendency, was calculated to excite the solicitude of every lover of his country. The constitution of the United States (with whose successful progress is indissolubly connected, not only the happiness of America, but of afflicted man, in every region of the earth) was for the first time, to be put upon trial as to its capacity for war, and should it survive the fiery ordeal, unhurt, it might, under Providence, challenge immortality. When, then, the representatives of the people of United America, in congress assembled, (who are destined, in common with us all, to participate in whatever doom may await us) had, driven by an unjust and imperious nation, resolved to commit our cause to the God of battles—when, too, the illustrious chief, who now presides in our councils, and whose life has been devoted to the service of his country, had given his sanction to this solemn appeal; and when the fate of unborn millions was connected with its successful issue, it was reasonably to have been hoped (whatever diversity of opinion might have existed, or whatever might have been the violence of contending parties) that every patriot would have sacrificed upon the altar of his country, all minor considerations, and that the American people, animated by one sentiment, would by an union of councils and efforts, have prosecuted the war with vigor, to extort from their common enemy an honorable peace.

It is a source of painful regret, that this hope of union, should, even in a partial degree, have been disappointed; or that there should have been any class of citizens so far influenced by delusion, prejudice or faction, as to ascribe the war to any other motives, than anxiety to avenge the wounded honor, and preserve, unimpaired, the essential rights of United America. This regret, however, is lessoned by the reflection that the people of the United States, in an appeal recently made to them, through their congressional elections, have, by a large majority, manifested a determination to support their government in the course adopted, and to encounter without a murmur (the inconveniencies of war, waged for the protection of whatever is dear to freemen. And it is a source of pride and congratulation that this holy zeal in our country's cause, is manifested no where more strongly than among the good people of this commonwealth. Is it too sanguine to hope that, even yet, this cordial support of our government may become *universal*;—that the spirit of our fathers, which, during the revolutionary contest, united *them* as a band of brothers, may at length animate their sons; and that America may be enabled to put forth her *whole* strength against her enemy? If any thing could hasten an event so desirable, it must be the moderation, and solicitude for peace, continually manifested by the Aemrican government; a new evidence of which has been recently published in its correspondence with the government of Great Britain, which took place since the declaration of war. At the moment of that declaration, with a magnanimity rarely equalled, it frankly disclosed to the enemy, the terms upon which peace might be restored, viz: The unconditional repeal of the orders in council (which, about the same time, had, without the knowledge of the government of the United States, been conditionally suspended) and a relinquishment of the practice of impressing our seamen. These friendly overtures have been contemptuously rejected; may it not be asked, with confidence, whether there is a single *patriot* in America (by whatever distinction of party he is known) that would be willing to abandon the present contest, until, at least, Great Britain shall have agreed to abstain from a practice, so offensive to our feelings, and so hostile to our independence?

It now becomes important to return from the long digression, into which I have been betrayed by the interesting considerations involved in the subject, to the particular part connected therewith, which has been performed by the executive of this commonwealth, during the recess of the legislature.

Placed, by the partiality of my country, in a highly responsible trust, and greatly anxious that nothing should be wanting on my part, I kept an attentive eye upon the progress of events, and believing that measures were tending to the catastrophe which ultimately occurred, I, so early as March last, addressed a circular letter to the lieutenant colonel commandants of regiments, exhorting them to a vigilant discharge of their duty, pointing out the necessity of being prepared for the event, and particularly, inviting their attention to the condition of the public arms. A copy of this letter will be found in the packet A. No. 1.

Availing myself of the discretion given by law, and with the advice of council, I caused moreover, the militia of certain counties, whose situation was the most exposed, to be armed entire, with a deduction of 20 per cent. for non-effectives. I ordered a large portion of the mounted ordinance to be distributed in the same section of country, also, munitions of war to be deposited in the most vulnerable parts, so that, at the approach of danger, the whole country (being prepared) might by a simultaneous movement, unite its forces to repel invasion.

I received on the 18th April, a letter from the secretary at war, (under date of the 15th) signifying the wish of the president of the United States, that I should immediately place in requisition, Virginia's quota of militia, (being 12,000) in conformity with a law of congress, passed April 10th, 1812, a copy of which is in the same packet marked 2. By this it will be seen that a discretion was given the executive of detaching riflemen, equal to one-tenth part of the requisition. That alternative was embraced, and, as the western part of the state abounded in good marksmen, I thought it favorable to the service, to detach the greater part of that description of force from that quarter, and the foot of the mountains on this side; of course, relieving the *infantry* of the line, in the same ratio in which the riflemen were detached, and thereby preserving the most entire equality to every part of the state.—My general orders, issued in pursuance of the request of the president of the United States, are also transmitted, marked No. 3, by which it will be seen, that an appeal was made to the courage and patriotism of our fellow-soldiers, who were invited by a voluntary tender of their services to supercede the necessity of a draft. It is a source of pride to reflect that this appeal was not made in vain; in some parts of the state, more came forward than were called for, in others *whole regiments* made a tender of their services. Anxious to preserve an example of patriotism, so honorable to those who furnished it, and so worthy of imitation by all, I directed the brigadier-generals to report the name of each citizen, who had so acted, that he might be presented to the representatives of the people, to receive at their hands that meed of approbation to which he is so justly entitled.

I wrote a letter to the secretary at war under date of April 17th, concerning the measures necessary to be adopted for the defence of this state, which will be found among the accompanying documents, marked No. 4. His answer is transmitted, marked No. 5. Believing, from the character of our enemy, that the eastern frontier was the only vulnerable point of this state, I deemed it correct to repair to Norfolk and its vicinity in person, for the purpose of learning whatever might be essential to its defence. The result of my observations I transmitted to the secretary at war, by letter No. 6.

On the 22d of June I received a letter from the secretary of state, covering the act of congress, declaring war against Great Britain, Ireland and their dependencies, and thought proper to transmit copies thereof with a circular letter, to the commandants of regiments; a copy of which correspondence is marked No. 7. On the 21st of July I received a letter from the secretary at war, communicating the request of the president of the United States to place 600 of the militia, before detached, in immediate requisition for the defence of Norfolk in conjunction with the regular force stationed there. In making the selection I resolved to leave the physical force of the country most liable to invasion, undiminished; and at the same time, if possible, to select the troops from a portion of the state whose climate and general character, corresponded with the country they were about to occupy, and thereby obviate the alarms which by some were felt, as to the unhealthiness of the situation. These objects, it is believed, were attained in the course pursued, except with respect to the company of Artillery from Bedford. This, however had *volunteered* its service (a kind of force always preferred) and was the nearest to the scene of action, with the exception of those companies residing along the shores of our large navigable rivers, which, for the reason before stated, I had determined not to call from their homes.—Although, under the rule I had prescribed to myself (the propriety of which is submitted to the legislature) I could not have done otherwise than call upon this company, yet there is ample cause of regret in the loss of seven of that company. And I sincerely sympathize with their surviving relations, who no doubt will experience, where it is wanting, the liberality of their country.

My general orders relative to the above requisition, are transmitted, marked No. 8, to which it is my duty to call your particular attention. You will discover, by reference thereto, that I directed colonel Lucas, having the command of the detachment, to report himself to colonel Freeman, an officer of the United States, commandant of the post, and to be obedient to his orders. The importance of this order arises from certain measures which have been pursued in another quarter of the union, where a similar request on the part of the president, was refused.

I shall not indulge, fellow citizens, in any glowing professions of zeal and ardor in the cause of *state* rights, but will only remark, I could possibly have no motive to abandon them. It became my duty naturely to weigh the propriety of complying with the request and fearlessly to pursue the course which my best judgment recommended. In deliberating upon this subject, I did not lose sight of the constitutional objections which had been urged against the measure; but, after the most mature investigation which I was able to make, they appeared to me to be without foundation, and in no degree warranted by a just interpretation of the laws or constitution of the United States. That instrument has most wisely in my opinion, placed the whole physical force of the nation under the control of the national authority, by providing, among other regulations concerning the militia, that the president shall be commander in chief of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States. The occasion which will justify their being called out, or the manner in which they shall be employed, must of necessity be determined by the *general government*. That unity of design and indivisibility of command, are essential to success in military operations, is an apothegm as just as it is trite, and if instead of an influence which shall pervade, embody and direct the force of the nation by a comprehensive system, it is to be broken up into as many fragments as there are states, and to be directed by as many different authorities; it requires not the aid of prophecy to foretell that these fragments may successively become the victims of foreign force, which, if resisted by a combined effort, would be dissipated as chaff before the wind. The security of the *states* is found in the salutary provision of the constitution, which gives to *them* the appointment of the officers of the militia, and in the integrity, which the theory of the government supposes, will always be found in the chief magistrate; whose sovereign control of the entire force of the nation, (if directed by prudent and honest views) cannot but be productive of good consequences; but from whom there is nothing to apprehend, should he attempt to turn the arms intended for the defence of the state against itself, or against any particular member thereof: inasmuch, as the patriotism and state attachments of the militia officers (who, from their very organization, will be always above corruption) would prompt them to frown into contempt so flagitious a design.

If it be admitted that the president of the United States, is commander in chief of the militia, when called into actual service, it would seem to follow, as *he* has not the power of ubiquity, and as

they must occasionally be called upon different and widely distant service; and, further, as they must frequently be associated with regulars, that it is perfectly correct that a *federal* officer of superior grade, should take the command as representing the president, lest this dilemma should ensue: that a militia officer of inferior grade, in the absence of the president, should either have the command, or carry on operations distinct from, and independent of the regular force. Reason and usage militate against the latter state of things; and it is believed, that throughout the revolutionary contest, whenever the militia of the states, and the continentals acted together, *grade* always decided the command; and where there was equality, (for the sake of unity of command) the *continental* claimed and enjoyed precedency.

The document marked No. 9, is a letter from the secretary of war, received the 2d September, communicating the request of the president of the United States, that I should cause 1500 of the detached militia immediately to take the field, to rendezvous at some convenient point in this state, with a view ultimately to join the north-western army. No. 10, contains my general orders, issued in pursuance with this request, which, as well as my former orders detaching the 500 militia for the defence of Norfolk, were obeyed with the promptitude honorable to the citizens composing the detachments. The requisition of 1500 militia was made necessary in consequence of the disastrous occurrence at Detroit; which, whilst it exhibited the mortifying spectacle of an American army surrendering without a blow to the forces of Great Britain, laid bare our defenceless frontier to the incursions of our enemy, and their ferocious allies, whose deeds of cruelty were every where manifested by the indiscriminate slaughter of men, women and children. To arrest this horrible warfare, it was necessary that the utmost despatch should be used. As, however, this emergency was entirely unexpected, and considerable pecuniary means were necessary for the equipment of the detachment, we were not without embarrassments.

The contingent fund being fixed upon the peace establishment, was scarcely adequate to meet the ordinary expences of government. The extraordinary expenditures inseparably incident to a state of war, had exhausted it. One of two alternatives was to be embraced; either the convention of the legislature, or an exercise of authority on the part of the executive, upon their own responsibility. The latter was preferred. To have convened the legislature, would have been inconvenient to the members; attended with an expence amounting to a sum beyond what was requisite for the equipment of the detachment: and productive of a delay that would have counteracted the object of the expedition. It is believed that there are occasions when it becomes the duty of the public servant to act upon his own responsibility. This was believed to be one of those occasions; and was therefore yielded to by the executive. The faith of the state was thereupon pledged, (to be redeemed at a distant day) for the materials necessary for the camp equipage.

As dispatch was indispensable, I thought proper to appeal to the patriotism of the citizens of Richmond, and solicited their aid in the making of tents, knapsacks, &c. It is a tribute of gratitude I owe them, and which I cheerfully pay, to make known to you, the representatives of the people, the promptitude with which they complied with my request. Every age, every sex, and every condition seemed animated by one sentiment. Thousands claimed a share of the pious undertaking; and in the course of a few days the whole equipage was completed, and dispatched to the place of rendezvous, designated for the detachment, which has since joined the north western army, under the command of the brave general Harrison, soon, I trust to redeem the wounded honor of our country, and take a just revenge of her perfidious enemies and their savage allies.

Although, after a peace of thirty years, and the inexperience in the art of war, which was its necessary consequence, some discomfitures were to have been expected in the commencement of the conflict, yet those which have happened are greater than can well be accounted for. For we have to add, to the disastrous affair of Detroit, an unsuccessful attempt upon Queenstown. Whilst this effort proved unavailing, and cost us the lives of many brave men, we are somewhat consoled with the reflection, that the American soldiers, actually engaged, *displayed* a valor and prowess *worthy* the descendants of the heroes of the revolution. It is with pleasure I call your attention from these untoward incidents by land, to the signal proofs of courage and skill manifested on the ocean. Many occasions have occurred, but particularly in the capture of the Guerriere, where the conduct of our seamen was eminently calculated to flatter our pride, and a sure pledge we have nothing to fear from our enemy, upon her own element, whenever the forces opposing each other are nearly equal.

I have thus, fellow-citizens, briefly recapitulated the causes which led to the war in which we are engaged. I have recounted the principal events which have occurred during its progress, and disclosed to you the part performed by the executive of this commonwealth.

When to the arduous struggle with Great Britain, the duration of which the pride and injustice of the enemy will (judging from recent appearances) protract, is added the long catalogue of unredressed wrongs against France, for which little hope is now entertained of an honorable reparation by pacific means, and which, in due season should be avenged by the most energetic measures; and when we reflect that a jarring world is in arms, from the rising to the setting sun, the crisis in which we are called to act, assumes a deep interest, appealing to the feelings and caution for the aid, of every one to whom has been confided a share of the public confidence. Although our external relations are very properly confided to the general government, yet from the peculiar structure of our institutions, much may be effected by a hearty co-operation of the state authorities. What course it becomes the powerful state of Virginia to pursue in the present times, I cheerfully submit to the wisdom of her representatives, not doubting that the result of their deliberations will be propitious to the welfare of our beloved country, and will sustain the character she has therefore displayed of a wise liberality, whenever called upon to aid the common cause.

[The remainder of the Speech is chiefly local—and from its great length omitted. The governor recommends many important amendments to the militia laws, and has brought into view many matters of state interest.]

JAMES BARBOUR.

Legislature of Maryland.

The following preamble and resolutions were ordered to be printed by the House of Delegates.

WHEREAS, The president of the United States called upon the executive of this state to furnish his proportion of one hundred thousand militia, by virtue of an act of congress, passed 10th April, 1812; and it appearing to this general assembly, that the said requisition was unaccompanied with either of the exigencies provided by the constitution:—AND WHEREAS, the wise and patriotic framers of our constitution, having for their object the freedom, the happiness and independence of their country, tho't it necessary, in order to preserve this government in its republican form, and secure the blessings of liberty to their posterity, to constitute protecting barriers against an improper or ambitious use of military power:—AND WHEREAS, offensive wars, schemes of foreign conquest, accession of territory, or national aggrandizement, are repugnant to the principles of our free institutions—Therefore,

Resolved, That it was never contemplated by the constitution, when it entrusted to the general government the controul of the militia, in certain emergencies, that it should, by perverted interpretations, at its discretion, use that power in the absence of those emergencies, and that the calling out the militia of this state, by the President of the U. States, by virtue of the act aforesaid, without the existence of such emergency, is an open and dangerous innovation upon our rights and liberties.

Resolved, That the power delegated by the constitution to the general government, to raise and support armies, as well from the nature and form of the government, as from the preamble to the constitution, was intended for the defence and protection of our own territory; and that the invasion of a foreign territory, by armies raised and supported by the general government, and garrisoning our forts with the militia, as a substitute for these armies, is holding them in service longer than any exigency existed, even if any existed at all, and an unwarrantable stretch of power, which must ultimately lead to a consolidation of these United States into a military government, if not timely and vigorously checked and resisted by all lawful and constitutional means.

Resolved, That if the general government, as a part of their policy, prefer the service of the militia to the employment of regular troops, in garrison, or any other military operations, even in the state to which they belong, it is, under the constitution, bound to provide all the means necessary for their support, and that it has no power to burthen the states with any of the expenses incident to such service.

Events of the War.

MILITARY.

It now appears certain that the Northern army has went into winter quarters. It returned to Plattsburg on the 23d ult. The 9th, 11th, 21st and 29th regiments, have gone to Burlington—the 6th, 15th and 16th remain at Plattsburg, and are building huts; the light artillery and dragoons have returned to Greenbush, near Albany, with generals *Dearborn*

and *Bloomfield*. The militia, on the frontiers, have been generally disbanded.

We have on file the *British* official account of the surrender of Detroit, &c. Though not of *striking* interest we regret it was not received in time for this number, on account of its length.

On Wednesday last (says the *Ontario Messenger* of the 7th inst.) the enemy commenced a fire from their batteries opposite and above Black Rock, which was spiritedly returned from the battery commanded by lieut. Stevens, consisting of a 24 pounder, from the battery at colonel Swift's encampment, consisting of an 18 and a 24, and from the one at Black Rock ferry. Our guns played so effectually as to dislodge an 18 pounder of the enemy; and a 24 burst and killed several. Lieutenant Stevens poured his balls into Fort Erie so well, that the enemy hoisted a white flag, whether as a sign of surrender or not, we cannot say.

Considerable military activity prevails in Tennessee and in the Mississippi Territory. A body of 600 men from the latter passed St. Francisville on the 11th Nov. for Baton Rouge; and general Jackson from the former is expected to march 1500 men immediately for New Orleans—from a pledge given that these troops will not be continued "in the lower country during the summer," an inference is drawn that some immediate enterprize is designed.

It is understood that brigadier-general *Smyth* explicitly informed certain friendly Indians who applied to him for permission that they *should not* accompany him to *Canada*. We do trust that the *honor* of employing *savages* in *civilized* war, may exclusively belong to the *religious* government of *Britain*.

Major general *Brock* was appointed a knight of the Bath for his *victory* at Detroit. The American colors taken there have been exhibited with great triumph in London.

The secretary of state, "according to provision in act of congress," will, *pro tempore*, perform the duties of secretary at war until a regular appointment is made.

By "general orders" from governor Meigs, dated Chilicothe, Nov. 25, it appears that great exertions are making to facilitate the movements of the North Western army. But we have no important information from it.

Worse and worse. Some gentleman in *Massachusetts* has prescribed a military expedition for the *British*, insinuating that the same has been generally spoken of at *Halifax*, which is to collect 12,000 men at Bermudas during the winter, of whom several regiments are to be of blacks from Jamaica, and invade the Southern states, in the spring. We are much obliged to the *British* at Halifax or the *Massachusetts* gentleman for letting the southern people know the plan so soon!

Extract of a letter to the editor of the Augusta Chronicle from a volunteer in the United States requisition from Georgia, dated at colonel Smith's camp, on the St. Johns, thirty-two miles from Augustine, on the 10th of November.

"The first detachment of two hundred and ten men landed here in perfect health and safety last evening, having halted one night on our way at the village of Fernandino on Amelia Island—the boat that conveyed us here will return immediately to Point-Petre to bring on the remainder of the requisition. Colonel Smith remained at Fernandino, but is expected here daily. We are yet ignorant how we shall be employed, whether against Augustine or the Indians."

Extract of a letter from an officer at Buffaloe, dated Nov. 29, 1812.—You will be pleased to hear that the night before last an expedition was organized under the command of colonel Winder of the 14th regt. to storm the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock. About 10 boats set out, with a proportion of the seamen on this station, under the command of lieut. Angus. Only five of the boats succeeded in landing the men, they were commanded by captain King late of the 5th regiment, with captain Morgan of the 12th, captain Dox of the 15th, and captain Sprowl, with captain Angus and S. Swartwout, as volunteers. About 50 sailors and sixty regulars were the actual force; and to the astonishment of friends and enemies, they atchieved the most valiant acts of real heroism ever known. All the batteries from Chippaway to Fort Erie were carried—cannon spiked; three officers and about 50 privates taken prisoners, and the whole Canadian frontier, 16 miles distant laid waste and deserted. In this valorous act, the brave captain Watts of the navy, 2d in command, with captain Angus, fell. Captain Angus, of the navy, Samuel Swartwout, his associate volunteer, captains King, Morgan, Sprowl and Dox, with lieut. colonel Boersler, at the head of the 14th, merit the veneration of their country, for their intrepidity and excess of bravery. Seven officers out of the 11 of the navy were wounded. Lieutenant Lisson is badly wounded, but yet not dangerous. Mr. Graham, son of colonel Graham, has his leg broke, but is in good spirits. Mr. Garter, (master) of New-York, has his arm wounded. Messrs. Angus, Swartwout, Sprowl, Morgan and Boersler, are safe.

Captain Dox is slightly wounded, and capt. King, by his zeal to send over prisoners, remained on the other side and was made a prisoner with about ten men. After this the whole force under gen. Smyth, prepared to embark, they manœuvred some time but much to the mortification of all, but particularly to the volunteers, they were ordered to return to their encampments, and to-morrow they again are ordered to be ready to cross. This is a summary of all the news on the frontiers at present.

Major Noon is in command attached to colonel M'Clure, much may be expected from this corps; 300 Pennsylvania and 100 Baltimore volunteers with the rifle corps of New-York and Albany, compose this regiment.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, New-York, Nov. 28, 1812.

The uniform troops commanded by lieutenant-colonel *Robert Swartwout*, having faithfully performed their tour of duty on the southern frontier of this state, have been discharged with the flattering encomiums of the commanding general, and have returned into the body of the militia. In justice to the officers and soldiers of that meritorious corps, and to his own feelings, the commander in chief announces his entire approbation of their patriotic conduct and services, and his sincere thanks for their prompt and unanimous compliance with the first call of their country. That promptitude and unanimity, and their correct, orderly and soldier-like deportment, and their assiduous attention to, and extensive improvement in military science, and in all the accomplishments and duties of the patriot soldier, have distinguished them as generous and public spirited defenders of the nation, and entitle them to public applause and gratitude.

By order of the commander in Chief,

WILLIAM PAULDING,
Adjutant-general.

Natchez, Nov. 11.—The detachment of militia from this territory destined for Florida, marched on Tuesday the 3d. from camp near Cantonment Washington, all in good health and spirits.

November 4.—Three companies of fine looking re-

cruits passed through this place yesterday. Two companies of infantry under captains Gray and Armstrong, are destined for St. Louis (upper Louisiana) and one of artillery under captain Philips, will go to fort Massac.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

To Brigadier-General Smyth, Commanding the Army of the Centre.

SIR—I beg leave to inform you that on the morning of the 21st of Nov. at 6 o'clock, a heavy cannonading opened upon this garrison from all the batteries at and in the neighborhood of St. George, which lasted without intermission until after sun-down.—They had five detached batteries, two mounting 24 pounders, one mounting a 9, and two mortar batteries, one 10 1-2 the other 5 1-2 inch. The batteries firing hot shot which set some of our buildings on fire, but from the extraordinary vigilance of the officers and men, particularly major Armistead of the United States corps of engineers, whose indefatigable exertions were extended to all parts of the garrison, the fires were got under without being observed by the enemy.

Our garrison was not as well provided with artillery and ammunition as I could have wished; however, the batteries opened a tremendous fire upon them, in return, with hot shot, admirably well directed.

Several times during the cannonading, the town of Newark was in flames, but was extinguished by their engines—as also the centre building in Fort George.——Their mess house and all the buildings near it were consumed. Captain M'Keen commanded a 12 pounder in the S. E. Block-house, and distinguished himself by his usual gallantry and skill. Captain Jacks, of the 7th regiment militia artillery, commanded a 6 pounder on the N. Block-house, and together with a part of his own company, though placed in a situation most exposed to the fire of the enemy, maintained their position like veterans.

Lieut. Rees of the 3d regiment of artillery had the command of an 18 pounder on the S. E. battery, which was pointed at the battery *en barbette* mounting a 24 pounder, and also at Fort George; several well directed shot were made from this gun, which proved the skill of its commander. About 10 o'clock lieut. Rees had his left shoulder bruised by a part of the parapet falling on him; which, though it did not materially injure him, obliged him to retire, and capt. Leonard of the 1st regiment United States artillery at that moment arriving, he took the command of this battery for the remainder of the day. Lieut. Wendel, of the 3d regiment of artillery, had the command of an 18 and 4 pounders on the West battery—and Dr. Hooper of capt. Jack's company militia artillery, had the command of a 6 pounder on the mess-house. Of these gentlemen and their commands, I cannot speak with too much praise, they distinguished themselves highly, and from their shot all of which was hot, the town of Newark was repeatedly fired, and one of the enemy's batteries silenced for a time.

An instance of extraordinary bravery in a female (the wife of one Doyle, a private of the U. S. artillery, made a prisoner at Queenston) I cannot pass over:—During the most tremendous cannonading I have ever seen, she attended the 6 pounder on the old mess house with the red hot shot, and shewed fortitude equalling the Maid of Orleans. Lieuts. Ganesvoort and Harris of the 1st regiment U. S. artillery had the command of the Salt battery at Youngstown, mounting one 18 and a 4 pounder.—These two guns played upon the garrison of Fort George and the buildings near it: from every observation I could make during their fire, I am happy to say they merited my warmest thanks for their skill in the service of these guns. Lieut. Harris, from his 4 pounder, sunk a schooner which lay at their wharf; she was one of those taken by the enemy at the mouth of the Genessee river a short time since. He also assisted in burning and destroying the buildings near the wharf. These two officers and their men, in the warmest part of the cannonading having fired away all their cartridges, cut up their flannel waistcoats and shirts, and the soldiers their trowsers, to supply their guns.

I cannot say too much in praise of all the officers and soldiers of the artillery immediately under my observation in this garrison; they merit the thanks and esteem of their country for the defence of it, and I believe it never sustained so sharp and continued a bombardment.

The enemy threw more than two thousand red hot balls into it, and a number of shells amounting to more than one hundred and eighty, only one of which did injury to our men.

Lieut. col. Gray commanded the artillery; the unremitting attention paid to his duty, proves him an officer whose zeal and science do honor to himself and country; to this gentleman I feel much indebted for the manner he acquitted himself.

To the officers of my regiment (particularly capt. Mulligan) and the soldiers who assisted the artillery, and those employed in extinguishing the fires and carrying off the killed and wounded, I am also much indebted, they merit my warmest thanks. To Dr. West of the garrison, Dr. Hugan of the 14th regt. United States infantry, and Dr. Craige of the 22d regt. United States infantry, I offer my thanks.—They were employed during the entire day in the most critical duties of their profession. Our killed and wounded amount to eleven.

Killed.—Serjeants, Jones, 1st regt. of United States artillery; Salisbury, 3d do. do. do.; privates, Stewart, 22d do. U. S. infantry; Lewis, 1st do. do. artillery.

Wounded.—Officers, lieut. Thomas, 22d regt. U. States infantry; privates, Boman, 14th do. do.; M'Evoy, 1st do. do.; Campbell, 1st do. do.; Welsh, 1st do. do.; Ray, 3d do. do.; Woodworth, 7th do. militia artillery.

From the numbers we saw carried off from the enemy's batteries, I presume many more were killed and wounded on their side.

Only two of the above men were killed by the enemy's shot, the rest by the bursting of a 12 pounder in the S. E. block-house and by the spunges of the guns on the North block-house, and at the salt battery.

GEO. M'FEELEY,
Lieut. col. commanding Fort Niagara.

GENERAL VAN RENSSELAER TO GOVERNOR TOMPKINS.

Buffaloe, October 23d.

SIR—The daily expectation of your excellency's arrival on the Niagara frontier, since the action of the 13th, has prevented my making an official communication to you on that subject: But having now received major-general Dearborn's permission to resign my command, I purpose to proceed immediately to Albany.

Under there these circumstances, I have determined to furnish your excellency with a copy of my dispatch of the 14th to major-general Dearborn, reserving to future communications, some documents calculated to furnish a more full explanation of the late movements of the army.

I cannot, however, in justice to my own feelings, to merit, and to the service, close without noticing to your excellency a number of officers whose conduct in the late action would have reflected great honor upon veteran soldiers, and entitles them to

the notice of your excellency, and the gratitude of their country.

Brigadier-general Wadsworth proved himself an officer capable of commanding with promptness, coolness and decision, in all the vicissitudes of battle; and though he was fortunate enough to escape wounds, scarcely a garment had he on, but bears more than one mark of honorable testimony.

Colonel Van Rensselaer was in the first boat, and the first man on shore: in the most gallant manner he led the van of the first column through a very severe fire, and when four wounds prevented his proceeding he gave his orders with decisive firmness, and they were effectually performed. Major Lush acted as his volunteer aid, and his courage and conduct on the field were highly honorable to a young officer.

Lieutenant-colonel Bloom was early in the action, and when a wound obliged him to retire from the field, he persevered in efforts to urge on reinforcements.

Lieutenant-colonels Allen, Strahan and Mead exerted themselves to get as many of their men as possible to the field and faced the enemy to the last.

Major Spencer, aid-de-camp to general Wadsworth, is in all respects an excellent officer, and his conduct on the field was honorable.

I will only add that after the toils and privations of a very perplexing campaign, to be obliged to witness the sacrifice of a victory so gallantly won on the shrine of doubt, is mortifying indeed.

I have the honor to be, with respect and consideration, your excellency's most obedient servant.

S. VAN RENSSELAER.

His excellency governor Tompkins.

ARMY OF THE CENTRE.

We were truly *astounded* with certain reports from *Buffalo*, that reached us on Thursday last. We would have said, "an enemy has done this," and have consigned them to the common tomb of the millions of tales propagated to disparage the arms and exertions of the United States. But the matters referred to have reached us in so many ways, that we cannot refuse credence to the wondrous story; still hoping however, that the facts may be exaggerated.

The following narration is copied from an ably conducted "republican" paper, entitled the *Ontario Messenger* published at *Canandaigua*, N.Y. by Mr. *John A. Stevens*; and we place great reliance in what he says, being seated pretty near the scene of the events he notices: the official, or *regular* accounts, will, of course, appear as soon as received.

"*Disaster upon Disaster.*—The old scenes of imbecility, treachery and cowardice, have been again displayed upon our frontier. With grief and shame do we record that Smyth, who promised so much, who centred in himself the generous confidence of strangers, of his friends and his government, who was to convince the American people that all their generals were not base, cowardly and treacherous, even Smyth must be added to the catalogue of infamy which begun with the name of Hull. Our minds are depressed with shame and our hands tremble with indignation, at this final prostration of all our dearest and fondest hopes. But we will endeavor to assume some calmness while we state to our readers the disgraceful events that have occurred on the Niagara river.

For three weeks past as all our readers know, the most vigorous preparations have been making for a descent upon Canada. On the 10th ult. Gen. Smyth promised "that in a few days the troops under his command would plant the American standard in Canada" and he called upon volunteers to assist him. Our mortification is already sufficient, without stopping here to notice the high tone of his proclamation, and the extraordinary sentiments it contained. Suffice it to say, that many, very many, of our worthiest citizens, left their homes, their families and their business, at an immense sacrifice, to obey what they conceived the call of their country. A second proclamation from Smyth appeared, evincing that all was ready, and announcing the general's principles and views. So far all was well. Anxious but joyful anticipation exhilirated all the hearts of all the true friends to their country.

On Saturday the 29th ult. in pursuance of orders, the army marched to the Black Rock and was there embarked ready to cross. In the morning 150 brave men, principally sailors, had gone over, taken three batteries from the enemy, spiked their cannon, and returned with little loss, leaving only one battery within sight of our forces, and that at such a distance, as to excite no apprehensions. Among the wounded in this noble enterprise, we regret to say that the gallant and brave captain Myndert M. Box, of the 23d U. S. infantry, was shot through both his thighs. There were thirty-six prisoners taken.—This was a glorious omen of the probable success of the whole army. Three thousand men were embarked; fifteen pieces of light artillery completely equipped in every respect, were in the scows or flats; and a *corps de reserve* of at least 5,000 men were waiting for a chance to cross. At this auspicious moment when the enemies batteries were completely silenced, instead of crossing or attempting to move, gen. Smyth sent over a flag of truce to the enemy. Our army still lay in their boats, when not a vestige of opposition from the other side appeared. Indeed, the whole country was so wholly abandoned, that three of our gallant tars, for a frolic, went over in the sight of our army, burnt two houses, a store and a barn, and were occupied an hour and an half in catching fowls and hogs, and killing them, and in collecting other plunder. After doing precisely what they pleased, they returned without molestation. In the mean while, a flag with a British major arrived, and a long conference ensued.—Smyth sent another flag; but before it reached the opposite shore, he ordered the troops to their tents. On Sunday the 30th, orders were read that the troops should be ready to cross on Monday the 1st inst. at 8 o'clock. At the time the army was at the river; and thirteen boots only, out of seventy, under the command of colonel Winder, attempted to go over; they crossed directly in front of the only battery which had not been rendered useless: after arriving within a few rods of the shore the battery consisting of an 18 pounder, opened upon them, when they turned about and came back. Not a single boat was sent out to reinforce them, nor was any diversion made or attempted at any other point. They were again ordered to camp and directed to be ready the next morning, Tuesday, to cross. By this time some uneasiness was apparent; the soldiers were disgusted and wearied with being marched back and forth; however, no one declined crossing. Again all was ready, the troops were either embarked or on the point of getting into their boats; when suddenly orders were received for all to return to their tents. The volunteers who had come out under Smyth's proclamation, were coldly informed that they might stack their arms and go home! The regulars were ordered into winter quarters!——Gen. Porter endeavored to retain the volunteers, until an explanation of this extraordinary conduct could be obtained. Many, however, giving up all hope of ac-

tive service, obeyed orders. It was understood that a council of the principal officers of the volunteers, was immediately called, to consider of their situation. They wrote a letter to Smyth, but the result was, that he evaded giving an explanation! Smyth was universally denounced as a coward and a traitor; he was shot at several times, and was hooted through the streets of Buffaloe. He was shifting his tent in every direction, in order to avoid the indignation of the soldiers. We understand he has ordered his army to the eleven mile creek, eleven miles this side of Buffalo, where they have actually arrived and are now encamped. Judge Granger, much to his honor, refused to afford any further shelter to Smyth, and every tavern-keeper in and near Buffalo, declined the infamy of his company.

A few incidental circumstances deserve to be mentioned. There was a force of 8000 men, according to the lowest computation, ready to cross. The army was abundantly supplied with provisions; this we assert, without the fear of contradiction, upon the authority of every officer and private whom we have yet seen. Gen. Porter conducted with his usual bravery and discretion. He offered to go over with the volunteers only and four pieces of light artillery, and pledged himself to take Fort Erie—but this was refused by the *great* Smyth. He *purposely* and with *malice prepense*, called Smyth a coward, a traitor and a villain! and the brave and gallant general has hitherto declined taking any notice of his expressions! It would be useless for us to repeat them; we merely put them on record, without holding ourselves responsible for the consequences.

It gratifies us to learn that the volunteers acted on this occasion, as we expected from their bravery and prudence.

Upon the whole, we are compelled to say, that there never was an expedition better planned and better prepared but no one worse executed. Nothing failed but the *general*, a term which seems to imply disgrace, for never was a nation cursed with worse generals than the American people seem to have been.

We learn with surprize and astonishment, that capt. Rees of Geneva, has received orders to build *barracks* at that place, for the winter quarters of an army."

CHILICOTHE, December 2.

We understand that a body of troops set out from camp a few days since on a secret expedition, to be accomplished in twenty days. They are to proceed to Xenia, and from thence to Springfield and Eaton, and from the latter place to that of their destination. The troops engaged in this expedition are composed of the following corps, viz:

Major Ball's squadron of U. S. volunteers, and twelve months dragoons,	200
Simrall's regiment Kentucky ditto,	220
Select U. S. infantry, captain Elliott,	50
Butler and Alexander's companies,	70
	540

NAVAL.

Letters of marque and reprisal have been issued by the British government against the United States. This is only giving a legal sanction to the *war* that has existed on the part of the enemy for several years.

A splendid ball and and entertainment was given to captain *Decatur* and his officers on their arrival at *New-London*.

Several enemy vessels of war are cruizing off the capes of Virginia.

In the legislature of South Carolina, November 24th, Mr. Cogdal gave notice that he should ask leave to bring in a bill to purchase and equip a *vessel of war*—a ship of the line.

In the legislature of *Pennsylvania* a resolution has been submitted to build a frigate for the use of the United States: We trust this great and powerful state, "the arch of the Union," will give us many examples of practical patriotism. *Seventy-sixers* are the fashion of the times.

The ship Madison was safely launched at Sackett's Harbor (Lake Ontario) on the 26th ultimo. She is a beautiful corvette-built ship of the following dimensions: one hundred and twelve feet keel, thirty-two feet and a half beam, eleven feet and a half hold; five hundred and eighty tons, and will mount twenty-four thirty two pounders, carronades. She was built throughout in the space of forty-five days!

The common council of *Philadelphia* have unanimously voted a "superb sword of American manufacture," to captain *Decatur*.

It is stated that capt. *Carden*, late of the *Macedonian* who has seen much service, says that at the battles of the *Nile* and *Trafalgar* (in which he was) he did not behold such a destructive fire as *Decatur* kept up—he emphatically calls it "tremendous." It is further said that he had declared his intention of recommending "to his majesty's government" the necessity of withdrawing all the frigates on this station, as nothing but ships of the line can contend with our vessels!

A splendid entertainment was given to c pt. *Jones*, late of the *Wasp*, in Philadelphia, on Friday the 11th inst. Wm. Tilghman, chief justice of Pennsylvania, presided, he was supported Edward Bond, esq John Barker (mayor) and com. Dale, the gallant 1st lieutenant to the memorable *Paul Jones*; 180 gentlemen sat down to the table; after the cloth was removed a great many American toasts were drank. In the course of the evening elegant transparencies were exhibited in "*honor of the brave*."

It is stated that a considerable number of the crew of the *Macedonian* have made their escape since the arrival of that ship at N. London. So much for the desire of British seamen to return to "his majesty's service" to *fight* for "*religion* and *liberty*." This abuse ought to be prevented: we want them for exchange.

An eastern paper presents us with the following statement shewing the mighty superiority of our tars, in the art of gunnery.

Americans.	*Killed & Wounded.*	*British.*	*Killed & Wounded.*
The President had	1	The Little Belt	33
Constitution	14	Guerriere	104
Wasp	10	Frolic	75
United States	11	Macedonian	106
	36		318
			36
Difference in favor of America			282

"To this astonishing difference of two hundred and eighty two must be added the extraordinary manner in which the masts, spars and rigging of the enemy's ships were crippled: three out of four of them being wholly dismasted."

An Albany paper of the 10th inst. states that com. *Chauncey* has returned to Sacket's Harbor, to lay up for the winter. The British vessels have also gone into Kingston for the same purpose. The weather at this season of the year is extremely inclement on and near the lakes.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Rodgers to the Secretary of the Navy.

At Sea, long. 32, lat. 33, Nov. 1, 1812.

SIR—I wrote you on the 18th inst. by the British packet Swallow, informing you of having captured

vessel with between an hundred and fifty and two hundred thousand dollars on board; and I now write you by a British south-sea ship, loaded with oil, captured yesterday, one of two ships under convoy of the frigate Galatea.

The above ship is manned from the Congress, and it is now blowing so fresh, that I cannot learn from capt. Smith her name, having separated from him yesterday in chase of the Galatea whilst he was manning the prize, and owing to excessive bad weather, last night, was unable to join him to-day.

I got within six or seven miles of the Galatea by sun-set, but the extreme darkness of the night enabled her to escape.

With the greatest respect, &c.

JOHN RODGERS.

The hon. Paul Hamilton,
Secretary of the Navy.

DECATUR'S VICTORY.

The official letters of captains *Decatur* and *Jones*, (the latter has already been inserted in the Register) were communicated to congress on the 11th inst. in the following message—

To the Senate and House
of Representatives of the United States.

I transmit to congress copies of a letter to the secretary of the navy, from captain Decatur, of the frigate "United States," reporting his combat and capture of the British frigate Macedonian. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on that officer and his companions on board, for the consummate skill and conspicuous valor by which this trophy has been added to the naval arms of the United States.

I transmit, also, a letter from captain Jones, who commanded the sloop of war Wasp, reporting his capture of the British sloop of war the Frolic, after a close action, in which other brilliant titles will be seen to the public admiration and praise.

A nation, feeling what it owes to itself and its citizens, could never abandon to arbitrary violence on the ocean a class of them which gives such examples of capacity and courage, in defending their rights on that element; examples which ought to impress on the enemy, however brave and powerful, a preference of justice and peace to hostility against a country whose prosperous career may be accelerated, but cannot be prevented by the assaults made on it.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, Dec. 11, 1812.

U. S. ship United States, at Sea,
October 30, 1812.

The hon. PAUL HAMILTON,

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the 25th inst. being in the lat 29 N. long. 29, 30 W. we fell in with, and, after an action of an hour and an half, captured his Britannic majesty's ship Macedonian, commanded by capt. John Carden, and mounting 49 carriage guns (the odd gun shifting.) She is a frigate of the largest class, two years old, four months out of dock, and reputed one of the best sailers in the British service. The enemy being to windward had the advantage of engaging us at his own distance, which was so great, that for the first half hour we did not use our carronades, and at no moment was he within the complete effect of our musketry or grape—to this circumstance and a heavy swell, which was on at the time, I ascribe the unusual length of the action.

The enthusiasm of every officer, seaman and marine on board this ship, on discovering the enemy—their steady conduct in battle, and precision of their fire, could not be surpassed. Where all met my fullest expectations, it would be unjust in me to discriminate. Permit me, however, to recommend to your particular notice, my first lieutenant, Wm. H. Allen. He has served with me upwards of five years, and to his unremitted exertions in disciplining the crew, is to be imputed the obvious superiority of our gunnery exhibited in the result of this contest.

Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded on both sides. Our loss compared with that of the enemy will appear small. Amongst our wounded, you will observe the name of lieutenant Funk, who died a few hours after the action—he was an officer of great gallantry and promise, and the service has sustained a severe loss in his death.

The Macedonian lost her mizen-mast, fore and main-top-masts and main-yard, and was much cut up in her hull. The damage sustained by this ship was not such as to render her return into port necessary, and had I not deemed it important that we should see our prize in, should have continued our cruise.

With the highest consideration and respect, I am, sir, your obedient humble servant,

Signed, STEPHEN DECATUR.

List of killed and wounded on board the U. States.

Thomas Brown, New-York, seaman—Henry Shepherd, Philadelphia, do.—Wm. Murray, Boston, a boy—Michael O'Donnel, New-York, private marine—John Roberts, do. do.—*Killed.*

*John Musser Funk, Philadelphia, lieutenant—*John Archibald, New-York, carpenters' crew—Christian Clark, do. seaman—George Christopher, do. ordinary seaman—George Mahar, do. do.—Wm. James, do. do.—John Laton, do. private marine—*Wounded.*

On board the Macedonian there were thirty-six killed, and sixty-eight wounded. Among the former were the boatswain, one master's mate and the school master, and of the latter were the first and third lieutenants, one master's mate and two midshipmen.

The prize mentioned above has arrived at Norfolk.

An officer of the frigate United States, speaking of *Decatur's* late victory, says—"I am aware it will be said, she is a little ship, with five guns less than you, and a hundred men less, and carries lighter metal, &c.—well, all this is true—she is inferior in all these—but she is just such a ship as the English have achieved all their single ship victories in—'twas in such a ship that sir ROBERT BARLOW took the *Africaine*—that sir MICHAEL SEYMOUR took the *Brune*, and afterwards the *Niemen*—that capt. MILNE took the *Vengeance*, capt. COOK the *La Forte*, capt. LAVIE the *Guerriere*, capt. ROWLEY the *Venus*, and God knows how many others; she is, in tonnage, men and guns, such a ship as the English prefer to all others, and have, till the *Guerriere's* loss, always thought a match for any single decked ship afloat. You will observe the ship was just out of dock, her masts were better than the *Guerriere's*. She had taken no prizes—her compliment was full. She was not built of fir, thirty years ago, as said of that ship, but of the best English oak, two years since."

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, October 10.

Copy of a letter from vice-admiral Sawyer, to John Wilson Croker, esq. dated on board his majesty's ship Africa, at Halifax, the 15th Sept. 1812.

SIR—It is with extreme concern I have to request you will be pleased to lay before the lords commissioners of the admiralty, the enclosed copy of a letter from captain Dacres, of his majesty's late ship Guerriere, giving an account of his having sustained a close action of near two hours, on the 19th ult.

* *Since dead.*

with the American frigate Constitution, of very superior force, both in guns and men (of the latter almost double) when the Guerriere being totally dismasted, she rolled so deep as to render all further efforts at the guns unavailing, and it become a duty to spare the lives of the remaining part of her valuable crew, by hauling down her colors. The masts fell over the side, from which she was about to be engaged, in a very favorable position for raking by the enemy. A few hours after she was in possession of the enemy, it was found impossible to keep her above water; she was therefore set fire to and abandoned, which I hope will satisfy their lordships she was defended to the last.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) H. SAWYER, *vice-admiral.*

BOSTON, Sept. 7, 1812.

SIR—I am sorry to inform you of the capture of his majesty's late ship Guerriere, by the American frigate Constitution, after a severe action on the 19th August, in lat. 40 deg. 20 minutes N. and long. 55 deg. W. At 2 P. M. being by the wind on the starboard tack, we saw a sail on our weather beam, bearing down on us. At 3, made her out to be a man of war, beat to quarters and prepared for action. At 4, she closing fast, wore to prevent her raking us. At ten minutes past 4, hoisted our colors and fired several shot at her; at twenty minutes past 4, she hoisted her colors and returned our fire, wore several times to avoid being raked, exchanging broadsides. At 5, she closed on our starboard beam, both keeping up a heavy fire and stearing free, his intention being evidently to cross our bow. At 20 minutes past 5, our mizen-mast went over the starboard quarter and brought the ship up in the wind; the enemy then placed himself on our larboard bow, raking us, a few only of our bow guns bearing, and his grape and riflemen sweeping our deck. At forty minutes past 5, the ship not answering her helm, he attempted to lay us on board; at this time Mr. Grant, who commanded the forecastle, was carried below badly wounded. I immediately ordered the marines and boarders from the main deck; the master was at this time shot through the knee, and I received a severe wound in the back. Lieut. King was leading the boarders, when the ship coming too, we brought some of our bow guns to bear on her, and had got clear of our opponent, when at twenty minutes past 6, our fore and mainmast went over the side, leaving the ship a perfect unmanageable wreck. The frigate shooting ahead I was in hopes to clear the wreck, and get the ship under command to renew the action, but just as we had cleared the wreck, our spritsail yard went, and the enemy having drove new braces, &c. wore round within pistol shot, to rake us, the ship lying in the trough of the sea, and rolling her main deck guns under water, and all attempts to get her before the wind being fruitless, when calling my few remaining officers together, they were all of opinion that any further resistance would only be a needless waste of lives, I ordered, though reluctantly, the colors to be struck.

The loss of the ship is to be ascribed to the early fall of her mizen-mast, which enabled our opponent to choose his position. I am sorry to say, we suffered considerably in killed and wounded, and mostly while she lay on our bow, from her grape and musquetry; in all, fifteen killed and sixty-three wounded, many of them severely; none of the wounded officers quitted the deck until the firing ceased.

The frigate proved to be the United States' ship Constitution, of thirty 24-pounders on her main deck and twenty-four 32-pounders, and two 18's on her upper deck, and 476 men: her loss in comparison with ours is trifling, about twenty: the first lieutenant of marines and 8 killed; and first lieutenant and master of the ship, and eleven men wounded; her lower masts badly wounded, and stern much shattered, and very much cut up about the rigging.

The Guerriere was so cut up, that all attempts to get her in would have been useless. As soon as the wounded were got out of her, they set her on fire; and I feel it my duty to state, that the conduct of Captain Hull and his officers to our men, has been that of a brave enemy, the greatest care being taken to prevent our men losing the smallest trifle, and the greatest attention being paid to the wounded, who, through the attention and skill of Mr. Irvine, surgeon, I hope will do well.

I hope, though success has not crowned our efforts, you will not think it presumptuous in me to to say, the greatest credit is due to the officers and ship's company for their exertions, particularly when exposed to the heavy raking fire of the enemy. I feel particularly obliged for the exertions of lieut. Kent, who though wounded early by a splinter, continued to assist me—in the second lieutenant the service has suffered a severe loss; Mr. Scott, the master, though wounded, was particularly attentive, and used every exertion in clearing the wreck, as did the warrant officers. Lieutenant Nicholl of the royal marines, and his party, supported the honorable character of their corps, and they suffered severely. I must recommend Mr. Shaw, master's mate, who commanded the foremast main deck guns in the absence of lieutenant Pullman, and the whole after the fall of lieutenant Ready, to your protection, he having received a severe contusion from a splinter. I must point out Mr. Garby, acting purser, to your notice, who volunteered his services on deck, and commanded the after quarter-deck guns, and was particularly active, as well as Mr. Bannister, midshipman. I hope in considering the circumstances, you will think the ship entrusted to my charge, properly defended—the unfortunate loss of our masts, the absence of the 3d lieutenant, 2d lieutenant of marines, three midshipmen and twenty-four men, considerably weakened our crew, and we only mustered at quarters two hundred and forty-four men, and nineteen boys, on coming into action; the enemy had such an advantage from his marines and riflemen, when close, and his superior sailing enabled him to choose his distance.

I enclose herewith a list of killed and wounded on board the Guerriere.

And have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES R. DACRES.

A list of officers, seamen and marines killed and wounded on board his majesty's ship Guerriere, in the action of the 19th August, 1812.

KILLED—Henry Ready, 2d lieutenant, and 14 seamen.

WOUNDED—James R. Dacres, esq. captain, severely; Bartholomew Kent, 1st lieutenant, slightly, and 61 seamen.

[The men "missing," are not mentioned.]

The French in Russia.

We have a series of French bulletins to the 26th of September.——The emperor *Napoleon* entered Moscow on the 14th, at mid-day, and took up his quarters in the *Kremlin*, a large palace or citadel, in the centre of the city surrounded by high walls. The French say, "the city of Moscow is as large as Paris"—and call it the *entrepot* of Asia and Europe. On the 16th, the Russians set fire to it "in 500 dif-

ferent places." They had previously removed or destroyed the fire engines, and the houses being chiefly of wood, it became "an ocean of flame." Nearly 1,600 churches, 1,000 palaces, and almost the whole city, the Kremlin excepted, was reduced to ashes and naked walls—30,000 sick and wounded Russian soldiers were burnt to death!—200,000 people were reduced to beggary, and immense stores of merchandize from all parts of the world, entirely consumed. The French charge this mighty devastation to the Russian governor Rostanchin, who let loose for the purpose 3,000 malefactors. In the cellars of the burnt houses, the French found an abundance of provisions, with wines, brandies, sugar and coffee, laid in by the poor inhabitants for their winter's subsistence, or deposited by the merchants for sale, with great quantities of pelisses and furs. They also obtained 60,000 new muskets, 150 pieces of cannon, 600,000 balls and shells, 1,500,000 cartridges, 400,000 lbs. powder, and a like quantity of salt petre and sulphur. Three hundred of the incendiaries were arrested and shot—they were provided with fuses and squibs, to extend the work of destruction. The loss to Russia is incalculable. An apprehension existing at St. Petersburg that Bonaparte might visit that place, Alexander had permitted some property to be embarked from it, though he said he saw no ground for fear. He has ordered a new levy of 400,000 men, and appears determined to prosecute the war to the last extremity. But rumor says he has sued for peace, which is probably true.

The following account of Moscow, as it was, for which we are indebted to the industry of the editor of the *Essex Register*, is now of peculiar interest:

"In the edition of Busching's invaluable Geography, published and translated in 1762, the following is the outline then given of Moscow. He gives it the antiquity of six centuries, and a circuit much less than it formerly had, of 24 English miles, lying in a curve formed by the river from which it takes its name. He gives the churches at 1600. Of these 11 were cathedrals and 271 parish churches, the rest either belong to the convents, or are private chapels. The public edifices or palaces were 44. He says more in commendation of the plan of the city than of its buildings, more of the riches of public structures than of the improvements of domestic life. The city he represents in four circles, which lay one within another. The interior circle, or fortress, is distinguished by its structures, and it was surrounded with thick walls and towers, defended by cannon and secured by moats and ramparts. The second circle in which commerce is transacted, had a high wall around it, with towers and bulwarks. The third circle is named from a white wall which surrounds it. The fourth circle was surrounded with ramparts of earth, which enclosed the other three, and contained within it about 17 wersts, the werst being about 3500 English feet, and the English mile 5280 of the same feet, so that it is larger than London, and without a sixth part of the population of London. In the eighth edition of Busching, in 1787, he gives the circumference at 26 wersts, and describes the city as having 260 parish churches, 708 stone and 11,810 wooden buildings, and 85,731 male and 87,053 female inhabitants in 1770. It does not appear that any favorable change had been made in its fortifications. In this period, Mr. Coxe was at Moscow, and introduced to the celebrated Muller, of whom he has given an account, and from whom he could receive the most correct information. Mr. Coxe says a fine view of Moscow can be had from an eminence a few miles from the city. He affirms that there are above 1000 places of worship in the city, of which 199 are of brick.

The reader who consults Mr. Coxe will find more of the literary than military history of Moscow, as the state of defence is to us the first subject of our present enquiries. Olivarius informs us in 1800, that the circumference of the city is 40 wersts between 10 and 12 French leagues; that it has 53 principal streets, and 482 intersecting streets pass through the great mass of 10,000 buildings. He represents the population at 200,000, but in winter at 300,000."

Proceedings of Congress.

The house of representatives, in committee of the whole, were occupied on Thursday, Friday and Monday, on the report of the committee of ways and means relative to the Merchant's Bonds, as heretofore noticed—and on the question to agree to that report, yeas 49—against it 52. Several substitutes were afterwards proposed. But nothing further was done. It is, however supposed, that this vote is not conclusive—the proceedings of the committee have not been confirmed by the house.

In the *senate*, on the 12th inst. a bill directing the secretary of the treasury to remit the penalties of the merchants, &c. prevailed, 27 to 3. On the 14th, having under consideration a bill to increase the navy, a motion made to strike out the provisions for building ships of the line, was negatived as follow:

For the motion—Messrs. Crawford, Franklin, Lambert, Robinson, Smith of N. Y. Taylor and Turner.

Against the motion—Messrs. Anderson, Bibb, Brent, Campbell of Ten. Cutts, Dana, Gaillard, German, Giles, Gilman, Goodrich, Gregg, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, Leib, Lloyd, Magruder, Pope, Posey, Smith of Md. Tait and Varnum.

The engrossed bill directing the secretary of the treasury to remit fines, forfeitures, &c. in certain cases, was taken up, and on the question, "shall the bill pass?"

It was determined in the affirmative, 25 to 5.

Those who voted in the affirmative were,

Messrs. Anderson, Bibb, Cutts, Dana, Gaillard, German, Giles, Gilman, Goodrich, Gregg, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, Lambert, Lloyd, Magruder, Pope, Posey, Robinson, Smith of Md. Smith of N. Y. Tait, Taylor, Turner and Varnum.

Those who voted in the negative were,

Messrs. Brent, Campbell of Ten. Crawford, Franklin and Worthington.

On *Monday*, the 14th inst. the house of representatives took up the report of the committee of the whole, on the report of the committee of ways and means, relative to the merchant's bonds, &c. and Messrs. *Quincy* and *Widgery* spoke in favor of the report and Mr. *Newton* against it.

On *Tuesday*, the bill from the senate respecting the merchant's bonds, referred to above, was twice read, and a motion was made by Mr. *Bibb* to postpone the subject indefinitely—after debate the house adjourned without a decision.

On *Wednesday*, Mr. *Quincy* submitted a motion, the purport of which was to ascertain the names of the officers under commodore *Preble*, who had received swords, &c. in consequence of a resolution of congress of March 3, 1805, appropriating $20,000 for that purpose—which was agreed to.

The house resumed the consideration of Mr. *Bibb's* motion relative to the merchant's bonds, and the yeas and nays being required, were—for *indefinite* postponement 61—against it 63. The bill from the senate was finally referred to the committee of ways and means.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on a bill from the senate for increasing the

navy. This bill contemplates the building of four ships of the line, and six heavy frigates. After some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again.

American Prizes.

WEEKLY LIST—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 239.

"The winds and seas are Britain's wide domain,
"And not a sail without *permission* spreads!"
British Naval Register.

277. The schooner America, of *Newburyport*, sent into Salem, by the privateers Fame, Industry and Promo, laden with salt. ☞These privateers, passing Indian island, a British post, were fired upon by the enemy. They returned the compliment, and determined to seize all the vessels then lying there.—They succeeded only in getting their *neighbor's* vessel out, the rest being run on shore. She is good prize, for trading with the enemy.

278. Brig ———, for Jamaica—a valuable vessel, sent into New London by the Joel Barlow privateer.

279. Schooner John Bull, a king's packet, out of New-Providence, chased on shore on Crooked island, by the Rover of New-York.

280. Ship Argo, from a South-sea voyage for London, carrying 10 guns and 2 swivels, with a large number of small arms, and 26 men; laden with 1400 casks of oil and 15 tons of whale-bone—taken off the Western islands by the U. S. frigates President and Congress.—(See com. Rodgers' letter.) This is a very valuable prize.

281. Frigate MACEDONIAN, 49 guns, and 306 men, sent into NewYork by the frigate *United States*, captain *Decatur*. (*See official account page* 253.) The Macedonian is a frigate of the first class—a new vessel, only four months out of dock; a fast sailer, and termed by her late officers the "*Flower of Old England.*" She is to be immediately fitted out—it is rumoured that captain *Jones*, late of the *Wasp*, is to have the command of her.

282. Ship John Hamilton, 550 tons, mounting 16 guns, 12 pounders, and 30 men, from Honduras for London, laden with 700 tons of mahogany, sent into Baltimore by the Dolphin privateer, of that port, after a smart action, but without the loss of lives on either side, though several were wounded. A fine prize.

283. Brig ———, from the Brazils, laden with cotton, sent into the Chesapeake by the U. S. brig Argus.

284. Schooner Loreen, from Martinico for St. Martins, laden with sugar and coffee, sent into Philadelphia by the Revenge, of that port.

285. Brig Bacchus, of Port Glasgow, in ballast—sent into Salem by the Revenge privateer.

THE CHRONICLE.

A report prevailed in London on the 19th Oct. that *Alexander* had solicited an armistice from *Bonaparte*, which was granted on certain terms dictated by the latter as preliminary to a treaty of peace. Powerful reinforcements to the French have marched from various parts for *Moscow*.

War between the Turks and Austrians is expected.

"Sometimes by fire!"—COBBETT. Several important manufacturing establishments in the United States have lately been destroyed by fire. "Such is the ever watchful policy of BRITAIN."

Colonel *James Barbour*, is re-elected governor of Virginia, without opposition.

General Abner Laycock has been elected a senator of the United States, for six years from the 4th of March next, by the legislature of Pennsylvania, in the place of Mr. Gregg.—The votes were for Mr. Laycock 63; Mr. D. Montgomery 26; Mr. J. Weaver 6: and Mr. James Brady 32. The three first were supported by the "republicans."

A nephew of the baron de Breteuil, one of the ministers of Louis XVI. obtained a livelihood at Hamburgh, a few months since, by sweeping the streets.

Many have read and admired governor Plumer's speech to the legislature of New-Hampshire, inserted in the REGISTER a short time ago. Such will be pleased to learn that the sentiments therein expressed have been fully supported by the vote of each house on their replies, as customary. In the senate 7 to 5—in the house of representatives 93 to 77.

A *Spanish* vessel, so called arrived at Boston from Cadiz, was overhauled by an Algerine cruizer, and after a very careful examination of her Mediterranean pass, suffered to proceed. The Algerines particularly enquired how many American vessels were at Cadiz, &c.

"*Yankee ingenuity.*"—For many years the British have been in the habit of *manufacturing* our shipping papers. *Our folks* are returning the compliment, and are daily engaged in making *British* licenses, to trade to Spain, Portugal St. Bartholomews, &c.

Virginia Legislature, Dec. 9.—John Taylor, returned as a delegate from the county of Lunenburg. Mr. T. asked to be dispensed from taking the *Duelling oath*, previous to his taking his seat. The report of the committee was unfavorable. A motion was made in the house to amend the report, so as to dispense with the oath. This amendment was urged on the ground, that to impose the duelling oath upon the members of the legislature, was to create a disqualification not recognized by the constitution of the state, and that it was therefore contrary to the constitution. After a long and animated discussion in which the amendment was supported by Messrs. Robertson, Archer and Leigh, and opposed by Messrs. Noland, Blackburn, Barbour, Currie, Thompson and Mercer, the question was put and the amendment lost—Ayes 19, Noes 147. The report of the committee was then agreed to.

Elizabethtown, (N.J.) Dec. 8.—Last Sabbath day, as the neighbors were assembled at the house of William Green, in the township of Springfield, for the purpose of attending the funeral obsequies of his son *Aaron Green*, the beams of the floor on which they stood suddenly gave way, and about seventy persons, mostly females, together with the deceased, were precipitated into a deep cellar, where they lay mingled with chairs, tables, chests and other furniture, in one promiscuous heap. The groans of those who were thus buried beneath their fellow-sufferers—the cries of others who were severely bruised, the agonizing screams of mothers for their infant children, forcibly torn from their arms, together with the coffin, shattered to pieces, all formed a scene equally novel, unexpected and distressing. By the exertions of the neighboring men, who surrounded the house, the sufferers were soon extricated from the ruins—and we are happy to add, that although most of them suffered some slight injury, yet not one bone was broken, nor, as far as we can learn, one drop of blood shed.

ERRATUM in the table in the last No. page 232. The correct return of votes being received, it appears that *two* republicans have been elected to the 13th Congress in Massachusetts—for 1—19 read 2—18; and in the totals for 114—68 read 115—67.